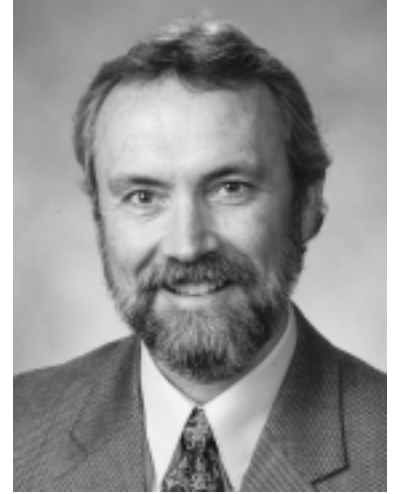




SEN. JIM HONEYFORD



REP. BRUCE CHANDLER



REP. DAN NEWHOUSE

15TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Winter 2004

Dear Friends,

The 60-day legislative session is under way in Olympia, and our objectives are clear. We want to continue efforts to create an economic environment that fosters job growth and prosperity for Washington families.

Bolstered by Boeing's decision to assemble its new 7E7 Dreamliner here in Washington, we must create a tax and regulatory climate that will help employers in all parts of our state. It's especially important that we help our beleaguered agricultural industry. It's time for us to pull together to strengthen domestic and export market conditions and alleviate regulatory burdens that weigh on our state's food providers.

We are honored to be serving as your 15th District legislative team, and we welcome your ideas and comments as we work on critical issues in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

Jim Honeyford
State Senator

Bruce Chandler
State Representative

Dan Newhouse
State Representative

**TOLL - FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE:
1 - 800 - 562 - 6000**

SEN. JIM HONEYFORD
REP. BRUCE CHANDLER • REP. DAN NEWHOUSE

**CREATING
JOBS AND
RESTORING
TRUST**

The Legislature made important strides in the past year to help position our state to participate in the nation's economic recovery and improve our opportunity for job expansion. We have also sought to make government more accountable and rebuild trust with citizens who have lost faith in government's ability to respond to their needs.



While the 2004 session is scheduled to last only 60 days, we have a clear agenda for achieving our goals of creating jobs and restoring public trust.

**IMPROVING
OUR STATE'S
COMPETITIVENESS**

Despite our recent efforts to make Washington more competitive, our state's economic recovery continues to lag behind the rest of the country. We must continue to reform our state's tax and regulatory policies to make this a good place for employers to expand and bring new jobs.



We support reforms to improve accountability in the state's rule-making authority and to add fairness and predictability to our regulatory environment.

We will apply continued pressure on agencies that deal with water policies to give greater flexibility to water users while protecting existing water rights, and make a concerted effort to add predictability and responsiveness to the water permit application process.

We need additional changes to our state's workers' compensation system - among the most expensive in the country - to protect employees while controlling costs. We also support expanded tax credits for start-ups and small businesses, which offer the greatest potential for long-term job growth.



Sen. Honeyford addressed a group of Counselor Corps members from around the world who toured the Yakima Valley last September. The purpose of the tour, called "Bringing the World to Eastern Washington," was to promote Eastern Washington businesses and products.

15TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Rep. Bruce Chandler has been elected Deputy Republican Leader by his colleagues in the House. He will help set policy direction and establish priorities for the House Republican Caucus.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

With 18 months left in the state's 2003-05 fiscal period, it's critical that we adhere to the balanced two-year operating budget adopted just last spring. As indicated by the governor's new supplemental budget proposal released in December, there will be a great deal of pressure to spend beyond our means and put taxpayers at risk.

We fought hard last session and successfully closed a \$2.7 billion budget deficit without tax increases. To retreat from this fiscally responsible approach

would risk a tax increase and deep cuts in essential services for people who truly need government assistance.

Any budget expenditures this year should be limited to necessary adjustments, such as school enrollment growth, and emergency needs so that we maintain a responsible, sustainable budget that protects taxpayers.



MAINTAINING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

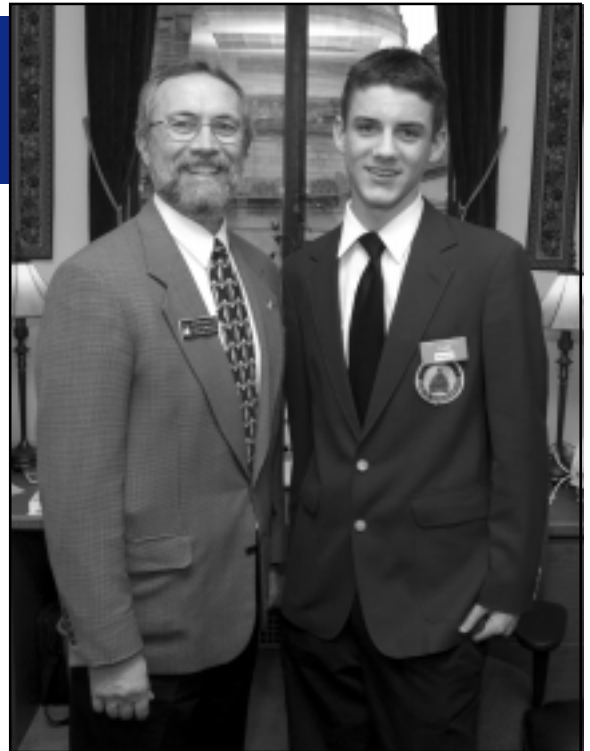
Excessive regulation and skyrocketing costs have put our health care system on the brink of crisis. A majority of Washingtonians work for small businesses that are finding it increasingly difficult to provide employees with health coverage. Those who have coverage are having a more difficult time finding health care providers, especially in 15th District communities where doctors and hospitals are being forced to limit services or leave the state because of the rising cost of doing business.

We want to lift the regulatory burdens on small businesses to make it easier for them to provide health care to their employees. It's also critical that we address the enormous increase in medical malpractice insurance costs that are strangling the health care industry. There is too much money going to our legal system and not enough going to the care and well-being of families.



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REP. BRUCE CHANDLER • REP. DAN NEWHOUSE**

Rep. Dan Newhouse is pictured with local student Jacob Barr. Jacob attends Sunnyside High School and was sponsored by Rep. Newhouse to serve as a page in the House of Representatives



**STRENGTHENING
OUR SCHOOLS**

We will continue to support efforts to achieve excellence in our schools and help students transition successfully to a higher education system that prepares them for high-demand, high-paying fields.

Changes are needed in the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) requirements to ensure that these standardized tests serve as a tool for effectively measuring progress toward higher academic achievement.



Critical to maintaining excellence is ensuring that we attract and retain quality teachers in the classrooms and avoid the disruptions caused by labor disputes that lead to teacher walkouts. We need to make sure classrooms remain open and that kids have the opportunity to learn.

**HELPING
THE CATTLE
INDUSTRY
STAY HEALTHY**

We will be working closely with ag industry representatives this session to do what's necessary to help Washington cattlemen stay viable by strengthening markets at home and abroad. We commend the U.S. and state agriculture officials for their prompt response to the recent BSE incident. They have handled the matter skillfully and as legislators, we will continue to communicate with these agencies to ensure proper steps are taken to keep our food supply safe and the industry healthy. The bottom line is the system has worked.

It's important that we allow science and good farming practices to prevail over politics during this difficult time. We are confident that the industry will overcome the challenges it is facing.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

The Legislature last year approved a prescription drug bill that directs the Health Care Authority to negotiate price discounts for Washington residents 50 and older or disabled with income up to 300 percent (\$26,940 for an individual, \$36,360 for a couple) of the federal poverty level (income self-declared) and lack prescription drug coverage. Nine pharmaceutical companies have recently announced voluntary discount or fee programs for seniors. The specifics of these programs and combined card benefits are described below:

GlaxoSmithKline	Novartis	Pfizer	Lilly	Together Rx (Abbott Laboratories, AstraZeneca, Aventis, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson and Novartis)
NAME				
"Orange Card"	"CareCard"	"Share Card"	LillyAnswers Card	Together Rx
ELIGIBILITY				
Seniors age 65 and older and the disabled enrolled in Medicare Annual income below \$30,000 single/ \$40,000 couple (approximately 300% of poverty) Must not have public or private insurance coverage for prescription medicines	Medicare eligible Annual income below \$18,000 single/ \$24,000 couple (approximately 200% of poverty) Must not have public or private insurance coverage for prescription medicines	Seniors age 65 or otherwise a Medicare enrollee Annual income below \$18,000 single/ \$24,000 couple (approximately 200% of poverty) Must not have public or private insurance coverage for prescription medicines	Medicare eligible Annual income below \$18,000 single/ \$24,000 households (approximately 200% of poverty) Must not have public or private insurance coverage for prescription medicines	Medicare enrollee Annual income below \$28,000 single/ \$38,000 couple (approximately 310% of poverty) Must not have public or private insurance coverage for prescription medicines
DISCOUNTS/FEES				
Discounts are 25% off the wholesale list price of GSK outpatient drugs Participating pharmacies charge card holders no more than a negotiated price GSK expects card holders to realize average savings of 30-40% off retail prices	Discounts are 25% off the wholesale list price of Novartis outpatient drugs Participating pharmacies charge card holders no more than a negotiated price Novartis expects card holders to realize average savings of 30-40% off retail prices	Patients pay a \$15 fee for each 30-day supply of a Pfizer prescription medication at participating pharmacies	Patients pay \$12 for a 30-day supply of any Lilly prescription medication at participating pharmacies	Anticipated savings are approximately 20-40% off retail prices. Each company sets its own level of savings independently with a minimum discount of 15% off its list price to wholesalers. Actual consumer savings will vary depending on the pharmacy's customary pricing for the specific drug.
COVERED DRUGS				
All GSK outpatient prescription drugs	All Novartis outpatient prescription drugs	All Pfizer outpatient prescription drugs	All Lilly outpatient prescription drugs	Together Rx maintains a list of more than 150 covered drugs manufactured by participating companies
CONTACTS				
888-ORANGE6	866-974-CARE	800-717-6005	877-RX-LILLY	800-865-7211

**SEN. JIM HONEYFORD
REP. BRUCE CHANDLER • REP. DAN NEWHOUSE**

**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU!**

Because of election-year restrictions, Reps. Chandler and Newhouse are limited in the amount of information that they are allowed to send you in the coming months. In addition to this newsletter, we will be sending you one more update at the end of the 2004 session.

We can, however, answer questions or respond to any requests you may have at any time. It's important that you know we are here to serve you and help you in your dealings with state government. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance.

► **SEN. JIM HONEYFORD**

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**More information and news about the Republican legislators
can be found on the web at:**

<http://hrc.leg.wa.gov> or <http://www.src.wa.gov/>

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